

Letter from Septimus Fraser to Alexander Graham Bell, January 26, 1915

51 Crescent St. Montreal; Jan. 26th 1915. X Dr. James Graham Bell, Dear Sir,

In common with thousands, it was of great interest to read in to-days paper the account of the climax of the great work which in the Providence of God you have been permitted to accomplish. But for me it was with peculiar interest for while I read of the humble beginnings elsewhere I distinctly recollect as though it were yesterday your meeting me when I was a young lad at school. You came to the Perkins Inst. for the Blind at South Boston, and you chanced to open the door of the little room wherein I was then seated at the piano at my practice. You were then so good as to stop and talk to me and were interested to note that I was a Canadian from Montreal though you did not say why, but I can now guess, and you moreover interested me in relating a fact which I have never heard alluded to by any one else and which I have never forgotten. This was relating to a wonderful transmitting sometime during the sixties of the photograph of Queen Victoria, from England to France if I recollect aright, which was accomplished in some way by electricity. This I recollect you gave me to illustrate to my young mind what wonders had been done, and finally I distinctly recollect kneeling in order to place my ear to the box which rested on the floor of the music hall and communicated with the room beneath when came music sounds but no speech if I recollect aright. This latter was done not on the day I met you but on the day following. As you may suspect, I who am now writing you am blind, and I received my education at that well-known school. I thought that it might perhaps interest you to recall the occasion of your primitive experiment there, and I was curious to know if in the multitude of your lifes' experiences you can recall and part of all thas: your visit to the Institution, the incident of the photograph, which I may not have properly understood but which I would like to know more about as I have never before or since heard speak of it. It would be most interesting to hear that after all these years

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such a passing incident even in the busiest of lives may be recalled as in my life it made so profound impression as to have it still vivid and circumstantial as though it had been yesterday.

How very few men have lived to drink deep of the full fruition of the lives as you have done! To see the results so far-reaching and beneficent; it surely must lead to profound gratitude to God for this His crowning blessing. I would indeed like to meet you once again, but being denied this take this opportunity of writing to join with others in hearty congratulations. I remain

Sincerely yours; Septimus Fraser Septimus Fraser.